

6 MAR 1996

1. TASK NUMBER 951129CCC1204 <i>N95A0271</i>		2. INVESTIGATOR'S ID 8516		EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION REPORT
3. OFFICE CODE 896	4. DATE OF ACCIDENT YR MO DAY 95 09 20	5. DATE INITIATED YR MO DAY 95 12 13		
6. SYNOPSIS OF ACCIDENT OR COMPLAINT No people were in the house at the time of this fire, consequently there were no injuries or fatalities to people. However, two dogs died from smoke inhalation. The fire department determined that burn patterns from the fire indicated that a toaster oven, in the kitchen of this single family house, caused this fire. The toaster oven was sent to a private lab; the lab could not determine if the toaster oven malfunctioned.				
7. LOCATION (Home, School, etc.) Home 10		8. CITY Round Hill		9. STATE Virginia VA.
10A. FIRST PRODUCT Toaster Oven 0216		10B. TRADE/BRAND NAME Black & Decker		10C. MODEL NUMBER Probably TRO 510
10D. MANUFACTURER NAME AND ADDRESS Black & Decker				
11A. SECOND PRODUCT N/A 0		11B. TRADE/BRAND NAME N/A <i>MFR/PRVLR NOTIFIED 11-20-96</i>		11C. MODEL NUMBER N/A 0
11D. MANUFACTURER NAME AND ADDRESS N/A		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Comments made <input type="checkbox"/> Comments attached <input type="checkbox"/> Excisions/Revisions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm has not requested further notice		
12. AGE OF VICTIM No Injuries 99	13. SEX No Injuries 9	14. DISPOSITION No Injuries 0	15. INJURY DIAGNOSIS No Injuries 7	
16. BODY PART (S) INVOLVED No Injury 99	17. RESPONDENT F.D. Investigator 3	18. TYPE OF INVESTIGATION Telephone 3	19. TIME SPENT (OPERATIONAL HOURS) 5.0	
20. ATTACHMENT(S) None a multiple	21. CASE SOURCE News Paper Report 5		22. SAMPLE COLLECTION NUMBER None	
23. PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE NAMES (NON NEISS CASES ONLY) YES NO				

951129CCC/204

24. REVIEW DATE	25. REVIEWED BY	26. REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR
27. DISTRIBUTION O:EHDS CC:		

CPSC FORM 182 (REVISED 10/93)

OMB NO. 3041-0029

951129CCC1204

PRE-ACCIDENT

Page 2

Efforts to contact the residents of the house and the insurance company and their lab have, thus far been unsuccessful. The fire department conducted an on-site investigation of the fire and removed the toaster oven as evidence. The toaster oven was then submitted to a private laboratory. The fire investigator was interviewed for purposes of this investigation.

According to the fire department report (see Ex. 1), two people lived in this house -- a 32 year old male and a 30 year old female. The fire department investigator spoke with the homeowner. The homeowner said that he and his wife left the house at 7:30 am, on the morning of the fire. The homeowner said that he and his wife had only used the coffee-maker, that morning. He also said that he had no problems with any other appliance in the kitchen.

ACCIDENT

The fire department received the call on the fire at 10:15 am, on the day of the fire. At 10:36 am, on the same day, the fire investigator arrived on the scene. When the fire was extinguished, the fire investigator began his examination of the inside section of the house (see Ex. 1).

He determined that the fire was contained to the kitchen, with smoke damage to dining room, hallway and living room. Burn patterns in the kitchen pointed toward the kitchen counter top. At this area of the counter top was a toaster oven and an electric mixer. The mixer appeared to be damaged externally. However, the toaster oven appeared to be damaged from the interior, outward. Damage to the counter top was most severe immediately beneath the toaster oven. According to the fire report, the toaster oven was found in the "on" position and it was found to be connected to the wall outlet. The fire department examined the outlet and found it damaged externally, a victim of the fire.

The fire department ruled the fire accidental and caused by a malfunctioning toaster oven.

POST ACCIDENT

The fire department released the toaster oven to a private laboratory. The private laboratory then conducted an examination of the toaster oven (see Ex. 2). The private laboratory concluded that it could not determine the cause of the accident because the toaster oven had been too damaged by the fire. They also could not rule out an intermittent malfunction, that may have been obscured by the fire damage.

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION/INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Black & Decker

Type of Product: Toaster Oven
(see Ex. 2)

Model Number: Probably TR0510
(the private lab did not find the above number on this toaster oven, but compared the oven with other models and with the submitted copy of the owner's manual - this suggested to the private lab that it was the above model number) - see Ex. 2.

Controls: On/Off slide switch
Toast color selection control

STANDARDS INFORMATION

Unk.

EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION

1. Fire Department Investigation Report
2. Private Laboratory Report

(photographs and additional information have been requested)

NOTE:

As per a telephone conversation with the compliance officer on this case, further attempts to gain the sample of this product were ceased because of the findings of the private lab (see above).

DAD

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REQUEST FORM

Document Number NSA 0271A0

Date of Incident 9/20/95 Category I.D. _____

Follow-Up Requested _____ Hazard Analysis Section 15

Type Follow-Up Requested _____ Telephone Call or On-Site

Headquarters Contact R. Rauschmiller

Assignment Message Obtain remains of toaster oven.
Verify cause of fire. Obtain fire dept. report.
Any product evaluation?

Person(s) to Contact ① Round Hill Vol. Fire Dept
② Owner of home

Guideline _____

Requested By RR

Task Number 951129 CCC1304

Assigned to ~~RR~~ MASC Date 11/29/95

RR

NSA-0271A

NOV - 3 1995

LOUDOUN TIMES-MIRROR
LEESBURG, VA
WEEKLY 23,000

SEP 27 1995

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CODE 3

Toaster Oven Starts

Fire in Round Hill 6247 ✓

A malfunctioning toaster oven started a fire Sept. 20 that resulted in \$60,000 in damages to a home on North Locust Street in Round Hill.

The kitchen was destroyed, and the rest of the home sustained extensive smoke damage, said Mary Maguire, spokeswoman for Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Services.

The family was not at home when the fire broke out at about 10:15 a.m. The family's two dogs succumbed to smoke inhalation in the fire.

The Round Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company responded to the scene, as did volunteer fire companies and rescue companies from Purcellville and Hamilton.

— By Craig Murto

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67 5 1129 ~~11~~ CCC 1204

COUNTY OF LOUDOUN
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

Date of Incident: SEPTEMBER 20, 1995 FM No: 5054/9009
Date of Report: SEPT. 20, 1995 Incident No: 510179
CCN: 95F146

FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. Location/address of involved premises: 19 N. LOCUST ST. ROUND HILL, VA.
2. Type of Incident: (X) Structure () Outside Fire () Other: _____
3. Alarm Info.: Day WED. Date SEPT 20, 1995 Time of Call 1015 HOURS
4. Discovered By: H.L. CLARK ROUND HILL, VA. 1-540-338-7462
Name Address Phone Number
5. Reported By: H.L. CLARK ROUND HILL, VA. 1-540-338-7462
Name Address Phone Number
6. Weather: CLOUDY Wind: LIGHT Temp: 70 °F±

7. Type Occupancy: SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING Bldg. Description: 2 STORY FRAME
8. CONDITION OF PREMISES: (X) Good () Fair () Poor
9. Contents Typical: (X) Yes () No. If No, Explain: _____
10. Date of Construction: N/A
11. Area of Origin: KITCHEN Material First Ignited: COUNTER TOP
12. Source of Ignition: TOASTER OVEN Other Information: _____
13. Probable Cause: MALFUNCTIONING TOASTER OVEN IGNITED NEARBY COMBUSTIBLES.
14. Est. Loss \$ 40,000 Assessed Value \$ 140,000
Contents \$ 20,000 Est. Contents \$ 50,000
Total \$ 60,000 Total \$ 190,000
15. Owners of Premises: MIKE AND ELAINE LEDBETTER (SEE BELOW)
Name DOB SSN
19 N. LOCUST ST. ROUND HILL, VA. 1-540-338-7740
Address Phone Number
16. Occupants of Premises: (X) Owner () Renter () Employee () Guest
() Family () Other

	Name	SSN	Address	Phone	Age	DOB	Sex
a.	MIKE LEDBETTER	229-92-3208	1-540-338-7740	32	9/5/63	MALE	
b.	ELAINE LEDBETTER	229-98-9415	1-540-338-7740	30	6/8/65	FEMALE	
c.							
d.							

17. Insured: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Building ☐ Contents
By: ☒ Owner ☐ Occupant
Company's Name STATE FARM Agent Name: JOYCE GLADSTONE
Phone Number: 1-703-938-2350 Policy Number: 46-BM-2473-3
18. Witness (Statements Taken): ☐ Yes ☒ No
19. Fatalities/Injuries: ☐ Yes, Type _____ ☒ No
20. Photos Taken: ☒ Yes, by whom M.P.TAYLOR ☐ No
21. Protection Devices: ☐ None ☒ Detectors ☐ Extinguishers
22. Detector Activation: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Other: UNDETERMINED
23. Fire Department Response: ☒ Yes ☐ No; OIC: ROUND HILL VFD

24. Details: THIS WRITER ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AT 1036 HOURS AND FOUND A STORY SINGLE FAMILY WOOD FRAME DWELLING APPROXIMATELY 25' X 40' WITH EVIDENCE OF FIRE ON SIDE 2, ON THE FIRST FLOOR. FIRE FIGHTERS WERE IN THE PROCESS OF CHECKING FOR EXTENSION INTO THE UPPER PORTIONS OF THEM STRUCTURE. I REPORTED TO AFM R.WRIGHT WHO ASSIGNED ME TO CONDUCT AN INITIAL INTERVIEW WITH THE OWNER.

THE OWNER IS A SELF-EMPLOYED CONTRACTOR WHO HAD LEFT THE HOUSE ABOUT 0730 HOURS AND GONE TO GREAT FALLS TO BID A JOB AND LEARNED OF THE FIRE WHEN HE RETURNED TO ANOTHER JOB IN ROUND HILL. HE STATED THAT BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE HAD LEFT THE HOUSE ABOUT 0730 HOURS AND HAD ONLY USED THE COFFEE MAKER THAT MORNING. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWN PROBLEMS WITH ANY OTHER APPLIANCE IN THE KITCHEN.

WHEN FIREFIGHTING EFFORTS MADE CONDITIONS SAFE, MYSELF ALONG WITH ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHALS TAYLOR AND WRIGHT ENTERED THE STRUCTURE.

THE FIRE WAS CONFINED TO THE KITCHEN, WITH EXTENSION INTO THE DINING ROOM AND HALLWAY TO LIVING ROOM. THE AREA OF HEAVIEST FIRE DAMAGE IN THE KITCHEN WAS APPARENT IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE KITCHEN. BURN PATTERNS AND DAMAGE TO CEILING LIGHT POINTED TOWARD THE COUNTER TOP BETWEEN THE SINK AND THE DOOR TO THE PATIO. REMOVAL OF DEBRIS WHICH HAD FALLEN INTO THIS AREA INCLUDING KITCHEN CABINETS AND CEILING MATERIALS, REVEALED A TOASTER OVEN AND AN ELECTRIC MIXER.

THE MIXER APPEARED TO HAVE DAMAGE CONSISTENT WITH BEING EXPOSED TO AN EXTERNAL FIRE, WITH THE WIRING BEING INTACT, WITH THE INSULATION BURNED OFF.

THE TOASTER OVEN APPEARED TO HAVE DAMAGE FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE COOKING CHAMBER OUT, INCLUDING DISTORTION OF AN UPPER HEATING ELEMENT CLOSEST TO THE FRONT OF THE COOKING CHAMBER. THE TOP OF THE UNIT AND A TRAY WHICH

HAD BEEN ON TOP OF THE UNIT HAD DAMAGE CONSISTENT WITH THE DISTORTED HEATING ELEMENT. THE TOASTER OVEN WAS DETERMINED TO BE IN THE "ON" POSITION AND WAS PLUGGED IN. WIRING TO THE OUTLET, AND THE OUTLET SHOWED NO DAMAGED OTHER THAN THAT CONSISTENT WITH BEING EXPOSED TO AN EXTERNAL FIRE. THE OUTLET TO WHICH THE OVEN WAS PLUGGED INTO AND THE OUTLET BETWEEN THE OVEN AND THE PATIO DOOR WERE EXAMINED AND DETERMINED TO BE IN TACT EXCEPT FOR DAMAGE FROM AN EXTERNAL HEAT SOURCE (FIRE). DAMAGE TO THE COUNTERTOP WAS MOST SEVERE IMMEDIATELY BENEATH THE TOASTER OVEN, WITH LITTLE DAMAGE TO AREAS ADJOINING THE POINT ON WHICH THE TOASTER OVEN SAT.

THE TOASTER OVEN AND THE TRAY ON TOP OF THE OVEN AND A PIECE OF WIRE FROM THE OVEN WERE REMOVED AS EVIDENCE.

AFTER CAREFUL EVALUATION, THE FIRE HAS BEEN RULED ACCIDENTAL, CAUSED BY A MALFUNCTIONING TOASTER OVEN, LOCATED ON THE COUNTERTOP IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER BETWEEN THE SINK AND THE DOOR TO THE PATIO, WHICH IGNITED NEARBY COMBUSTIBLES.

2 DOGS DIED OF SMOKE INHALATION IN THE FIRE

Incident: () Open (X) Closed () Inactive

Signature: Joseph P. Sullivan ⁹⁰⁰⁹ Reviewed By: EPB 9040

Title: Assistant Fire Marshal/Investigator Date: 12-7-95

BLACK & DECKER TOASTER OVEN
CLAIM NO. 46-C820-151
INSURED: LEADBETTER

MADE FOR
CHARNOCK INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE
POWHATAN, VA

F&R NO. W60-694

OCT. 1995



FROEHLING & ROBERTSON, INC.
GEOTECHNICAL • ENVIRONMENTAL • MATERIALS
ENGINEERS • LABORATORIES
"OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE"

October 26, 1995

Charnock Investigative Service
P. O. Box 340
Powhatan, VA 23139

Attn: Mr. William T. Charnock

Re: Black & Decker Toaster Oven
Insured: Leadbetter
Insurer: State Farm
CIS No.: 95-2357
Claim No.: 46-C820-151
F&R File No.: W60-694

Gentlemen:

As requested, an examination has been conducted on the above referenced Black & Decker Toaster Oven as submitted to our Richmond laboratory. The expressed purpose of the examination was to evaluate the fire damaged appliance, if possible, for any indications of malfunction or defect which may have caused or contributed to a serious fire which occurred. It is our understanding that the oven was reportedly not in use and that the insured closed the oven door and left for work. Various photographs of the unit as received with materials sorted and layed out for examination are enclosed for reference. The results of the examination and our observations are summarized as follows:

The unit consisted of a typical counter top type toaster oven displaying severe fire damage. (Photos 1 to 13) Portions of the plastic cabinet ends were consumed and the glass front door was crazed and fragmented into numerous pieces and fragments. Portions of the logo "Black & Decker" were apparent on the lower left corner of the door remains. (Photo 3) Comparison of the oven with other models and with the submitted copy of the owners manual suggests that it is a model #TRO510 unit. Examination of the oven cavity revealed that the broil tray was partially melted and consumed at the front left corner and that the upper two heating elements were warped or deformed with aluminum heat shield reflective strips above them partially melted and consumed. (Photo 13) The lower heating elements were found to remain relatively intact. All four elements were

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TELEPHONE (804) 284-2701 • FAX (804) 284-1202

BRANCHES: ASHEVILLE, NC • BALTIMORE, MD • CHARLOTTE, NC • CHESAPEAKE, VA
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found to remain operable when tested for continuity and resistance. The right frame of the glass door remained in the upright position as received. Burn patterns and protected metals behind the right glass frame tend to confirm that the door was closed. (Photo 13 & 14)

A portion of the power supply cord with the plug prongs was submitted. The rest of the cord which was not found with the unit appeared to have been cut off. (Photos 2 to 4) Low magnification examination of the plug prongs and exposed portions of the copper strand type conductors did not reveal any apparent indications of arcing, shorting or other signs of electrical activity or malfunction.

A close examination was conducted of the oven's thermostat, toast on/off slide switch, and toast color selection controls. Knobs and knob shafts of the thermostat and color selection controls were consumed, making position determination difficult. The on/off switch appeared to be in an off position as received. Switch contacts in the thermostat and in the toast color control mechanism were found to remain operable, relatively clean, and free to move with no indications of sticking, welding, unusual pitting, or other signs of malfunction. Although fire degraded, the primary controls appeared to remain operable. (Photos 18 to 29)

The door interlock switch in the rear of the enclosure at the power cord connection was fire degraded and loose but remained operable with both contact strips free to move and separate, interrupting power from the cord when the door is opened. Please note, on many toaster ovens, if the oven or toast switch is on, the unit will resume heating or operation when the door is closed. Our lab examination was concluded after photographing the unit.

In summary, the preceding examination of the unit did not reveal any conclusive indications of a defect in materials or assembly. Damage to the unit does suggest that sufficient heat occurred within the unit to warp the top heating elements and partially melt aluminum reflective strips above. Melting of the front left corner of the drip tray tends to indicate that this damage may have initiated in that portion of the oven cavity or possibly external to the unit in that area. Please note, the severity of fire damage makes a more definitive evaluation difficult at best. We can not rule out some type of intermittent malfunction or anomaly in use that may have been obscured by subsequent fire damage.

The unit shall be shipped to the addressee.



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Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact us at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
FROEHLING & ROBERTSON, INC.

Charles C. Crim, P.E.
Senior Engineer
Special Projects Section

CCC/dd

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